



State of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER SIXTEEN

- WHEREAS,** the economy and social fabric of this state are inextricably linked to food production and food production-related activities; and
- WHEREAS,** food production accounts for more than twenty-five percent of the state's gross annual product; and
- WHEREAS,** the expansion of global markets for agricultural products have failed to keep pace with increased agricultural productivity in recent years, leading to a reduction in the amount of income earned by local producers; and
- WHEREAS,** unacceptable numbers of people from across the state and around the world do not have reliable access to Iowa's abundant food supply; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Iowa contains some of the most productive farmland found around the world, and the potential to feed hungry people and generate sustainable income for local producers is virtually unlimited; and
- WHEREAS,** this administration is confident that the State of Iowa can become a world leader in the new economy by creating an efficient food production infrastructure that links producers, processors, distributors, and marketers to vibrant and sustainable world markets; and
- WHEREAS,** the development of these linkages will enable this state to establish itself as the Food Capital of the World by creating new opportunities to increase profitability for Iowa producers through product diversification, local processing, enhanced distribution, and direct marketing; and
- WHEREAS,** it is imperative for policy-makers to develop a common working knowledge of Iowa's overall food production system by collecting and analyzing information about the state's food production infrastructure, including consumer patterns, in an effort to improve food policy-related decisions; and
- WHEREAS,** a state food production policy that is designed to produce a safe, nutritious, and adequate food supply stock for world consumption, must also balance economic, environmental, and social considerations that are important to the people of this state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Governor of the State of Iowa, by the power vested in me by the laws of the constitution of the State of Iowa do hereby order the creation of the IOWA FOOD POLICY COUNCIL.

- I. **Purpose.** The Iowa Food Policy Council shall advise this office on all aspects of the food production system in Iowa. The Council's advice shall include, but should not be limited to, a discussion of the following items:
 1. the state's baseline agricultural production output (this assessment shall include data on: the amount of food produced annually in this state; the amount of food that is purchased and consumed by state residents; and the extent to which the food produced in Iowa is processed, distributed and marketed by local individuals and businesses);
 2. barriers that limit the access of local businesses to production, distribution and consumer markets both inside and outside of the state. This assessment should include, but shall not be limited to, an examination of the manner in which state and local policies may impede the ability of local individuals and businesses to engage in food production, processing, distribution, and marketing activities;
 3. barriers that limit the access of hungry consumers to available food stocks;
 4. innovative local food system activities, including an assessment of the state's capacity to replicate these activities across Iowa;
 5. strategies to expand training and assistance programs for local individuals and businesses, including methods that will link actors at each stage of the local food production infrastructure together in a working system;

6. strategies to improve the participation of state and local governments in the development of a growing local food production infrastructure; and
7. strategies to link consumers to a growing local food production infrastructure.

II. Organization. The Council will be composed of 15-20 members appointed by the governor. Representatives from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Economic Development, and Iowa's health and human services agencies shall be appointed to serve as ex-officio members on the Council. The Council's voting membership shall consist of representatives from the following areas of the state's local food production system:

1. local producers also engaged in direct marketing;
2. local food processors;
3. local food distributors;
4. local food retailers;
5. cooperative extension representatives;
6. urban agriculture and education representatives;
7. agricultural policy and legal experts; and
8. hunger prevention and food security experts.

The Council will receive administrative support from the Agricultural Law Center at Drake University. All research, policy development, and publication activities will be coordinated by the Council through Drake University. Funding to support the Council's activities will be received by the Council through private donations, state and federal grant assistance, and institutional support from Drake University.

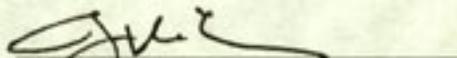
III. Activities. The Council shall convene in April, 2000. The Council shall review the following research reports for background information in preparation for this initiative:

1. A report entitled "Making the Connections," conducted by Agricultural Law Center at Drake University. This study identifies a series of innovative food production and marketing activities currently underway across the state.
2. A report entitled "Examining Iowa's Food System," conducted by the Iowa State University Cooperative Extension under the institution's Value-Added Agriculture Initiative. This study examines the current status of the state's baseline food production system.

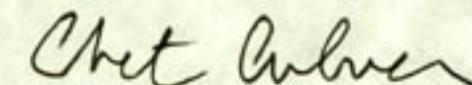
The Council shall submit a final report outlining its findings and recommendations to the Governor's Office for review no later than April 30, 2001. The Council shall be dissolved after the final report has been submitted, unless an application to continue its activities has been approved by the governor before April 30, 2001.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of Iowa to be affixed. Done in Des Moines, Iowa this 31st day of March in the year our Lord Two Thousand.


Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor

ATTEST:


Chester J. Culver
Secretary of State